Learning Trust

Collective Worship Policy

Ratified: March 2023
Review: March 2025

OVERVIEW

The communities of our school are rich in their diversity and religious traditions. These traditions and family identities are celebrated at all our schools. The purpose of collective worship is to contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole. We will aim to provide an opportunity for an experience of worship.

The law requires all schools to provide a daily, collective act of worship that is on most occasions wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. It need not be held at the same time each day. In this school we will meet the requirements of the law in full.

(Collective worship is occurring within Covid compliance restrictions October 2020)

The purpose of Collective worship:

1. To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole.

2. To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

   Assemblies should:-

   - provide pupils with the knowledge and insight into values and beliefs that enable them to reflect on their experiences in a way with develops their spiritual awareness and self-knowledge, to deepen and widen children's emotional responses (spiritual)

   - teach the principles which distinguish right from wrong, (moral)

   - encourage pupils to relate positively to others, take responsibility, participate fully in the community and develop an understanding of citizenship, (social)

   - teach pupils to appreciate their own cultural traditions and the diversity and richness of other cultures. (cultural)

3. To develop a sense of:

   - awe and wonder,
   - interdependence with the natural world,
   - pattern, sequence and order,
   - self-worth and value of others

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4. To develop an awareness that:-

   - life involves choices of belief, attitude, behaviour and relationships,

- there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life.

The principals of collective worship:

All assemblies / acts of collective worship are based on the principles that they should be:- inclusive, educational and spiritual.

Inclusive – They should:-

- be pupil-centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupils
- acknowledge diversity,
- involve pupils as active participants,
- meet the needs of the pupils,
- foster a sense of community

Educational – They should:-

- be learning experiences,
- be well-planned,
- relate to other curriculum activities,
- provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides,
- celebrate educational achievements,
- be consistent with the aims and values of the school.

Spiritual – They should:-

- provide a time to be still, pray and reflect,
- be a special time – conducive to worship,
- enable children to feel calm, relaxed and secure,
- include a variety of words, music and images,
- provide an opportunity for children to participate in collective worship

STRATEGIES

1. On some occasions the schools will meet corporately to worship and, on other occasions n different groupings.

2. On some occasions worship will be held in classrooms at appropriate times during the day and will be lead by staff and learners.

3. Worship will be used for celebration and thanksgiving.

4. Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship.

5. On some occasions parents will be invited to participate in collective worship with the school.

6. Occasionally, outside speakers will be brought in to address the children and, where appropriate, lead acts of worship.

7. On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious festivals and holy days.

8. Records of religious worship will be kept to show that the requirements of the law have been met.

9. **Statutory withdrawal from collective worship:**

LINK Learning Trust Schools reflect the right of parents / carers to withdraw their children from some or all occasions of collective worship and safeguards this right for staff where appropriate.

Should a request for withdrawal be made, the parent would meet with the Head of School.

OUTCOMES

Pupils will be offered excellent opportunities to experience enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship.

They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection. They will learn develop positive attitudes to worship and worshiping communities.

Through collective worship learners will grow in spirituality and experience awe and wonder.